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2003 Governor's Awards for the Arts



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WELCOME

Bill Frazier, Chairman, Montana Arts Council

INTRODUCTION

John P. Langenheim, President, Montana Ambassadors

PRESENTATION BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

The Honorable Judy Martz

2003 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR MUSIC

Uri Barnea, Billings

2003 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR VISUAL ARTS

Custer County Art and Heritage Center, Miles City

2003 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR SERVICE TO THE ARTS

Judy Ericksen, Great Falls

2003 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR VISUAL ARTS

William "Bill" Stockton, Grass Range

2003 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Larry D. Williams, Sioux City, Iowa

Immediately following the presentation, hors d'oeuvres and entertainment will be provided in the Rotunda. Music: Rex and Renan Rieke.



Hometown Celebrations!

Each of the 2003 Governor's Arts Awards recipients are being honored with a celebration in the towns listed below, during March and April. Further details will be available in mid-February by contacting the Montana Arts Council.

Judy Ericksen and Larry D. Williams—Great Falls

Uri Barnea and Bill Stockton—Billings

Custer County Art and Heritage Center—Miles City

STATEWIDE BROADCAST: GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS PROGRAM

KUFM/TV, a Montana Public Television station, is producing an hour-long special broadcast of compiled video profiles of each of the 2003 Governor's Arts Awards recipients. Watch for this special program to be aired during the third week of April. The 90-second profiles screened at the Governor's ceremony will also be broadcast, on a rotating basis, throughout the year. Special eight-minute in-depth profiles of each recipient will be screened at their Hometown Celebrations.

2003 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS

The Governor of the State of Montana is pleased to present the 2003 Governor's Arts Awards program through the Montana Arts Council and Montana Ambassadors.

MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

The Montana Arts Council is the agency of state government charged with promoting and expanding the significant role of arts and culture in our lives through a variety of grant and technical assistance programs which benefit Montanans of all ages and cultures as current or future creators, participants or patrons of the arts.

MONTANA AMBASSADORS

The Montana Ambassadors is a statewide service organization comprised of business leaders from across the state who support economic development activities. Their partnership with the Montana Arts Council in producing the Governor's Arts Awards brings together the arts industry and other businesses to celebrate these fine artists and to recognize the valuable economic impact within the state of Montana by its many fine artists.

Larry D. Williams Lifetime Achievement

"Spellbinding." That's how David Nelson, former executive director of the Montana Arts Council, describes Larry Williams's leadership style.

"To observe him chairing a meeting, dealing with the most awkward, confusing and disruptive situation is to watch a master at work," says Nelson – himself a former recipient of the Governor's Arts Award for lifetime achievement. "Calm, kind and unflappable in dimensions hard to imagine, he invariably finds a successful outcome."

For more than three decades, Williams's unique leadership capabilities have guided Montana arts organizations, schools, civic groups and institutions.

His hefty résumé is laden with awards and citations. Among them: two honorary doctorates (University of Great Falls and Morningside College), a Distinguished Eagle Award from Boy Scouts of America, the first University of Montana's Outstanding Alumnus Award for the School of Fine Arts, the Distinguished Service Award from the Northwest Division of the Music Educators National Conference, and the Leadership Recognition Award from the Montana Association of School Superintendents.



Williams, who chaired the Montana Arts Council from 1989-1995 and was appointed to the council by three successive governors of both political parties, seems to understand the nuances of leadership much as he understands how to breathe – innately, instinctively. "I have been told I have an ability to see and make sense of events as they unfold," he says. "I can often anticipate clouds on the horizon and develop strategies to find a positive direction."

He was also appointed to the Western States Arts Federation in 1989, and served as chairman of that organization in 1994 and again in 1998. Williams was first invited to serve as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts in 1989 – a task he's repeatedly been asked to fulfill. He also has participated in panels and sat on committees of the Music Educators National Conference.

The former superintendent of schools in Great Falls is currently serving in that same capacity in Sioux City, Iowa.

Montana, he says, has shown a unique commitment to the arts. "There's a can-do, must-do environment."

In the face of tight budgets, people from all walks of life must continue to insist that arts remain a fundamental part of community life. "The arts must survive at the grassroots level if our culture as we know it is to survive," he says. "The arts give each generation their own ability to define their time."

When Billings Symphony maestro

Uri Barnea speaks of making music, making music, he describes a power that goes beyond mere sound to encompass a mysterious and spiritual microcosm of life itself – a power to evoke and convey life's emotions with utter potency.

He describes the orchestra as “a huge machine. And trying to combine all these forces into something... that people can take in their own way can't compare with anything else.”

Barnea, a much-honored composer, symphony director and violinist, has a rich résumé of accomplishments. He came to the United States in 1971 to serve as music director of the Jewish Community Center in Minneapolis and as conductor of its resident orchestra. While in Minnesota Barnea also conducted the Unitarian Orchestra and Chorus, the Kenwood Chamber Orchestra and was assistant conductor of the University of Minnesota Symphony and Chamber Orchestra. He received both his M.A. and Ph. D. degrees from the University of Minnesota.



Barnea arrived in Montana from Illinois where he was on the music faculty of Knox College in Galesburg, a visiting professor at Monmouth College and music director of the Knox-Galesburg Symphony.

Since taking the reins at the Billings symphony in 1984, he has worked energetically to bring orchestral and musical appreciation to outlying communities, and has greatly expanded community awareness and support for the symphony.

During his tenure, Barnea has increased the orchestra's size and added two more annual concerts to the schedule; he's also premiered numerous new compositions by relatively unknown composers, and received a national award for “adventuresome programming.”

He's composed several original works, including “Capriccio for Orchestra,” “Prelude for a Joyous Occasion” and “Homage to Bach”; and recorded a number of contemporary works with the orchestra.

A commitment to music education has also permeated his career. Barnea has served as guest adjudicator and AA orchestral director at various state high school music festivals; actively promoted outreach programs to expose students and others to orchestral music; and developed an annual youth concert as well as after-school music programs for children at risk.

The child of German-Jewish parents, Barnea grew up in Israel and later emigrated to the United States to study and develop his talents. He was active in the mid-1990s in Billings when anti-Semitic vandalism and literature blighted the community, and has received commendations from the Montana Human Rights Coalition for his work on behalf of tolerance and diversity.

Barnea's enthusiasm for promoting orchestral music to young and old alike has won him many admirers. According to Ann Miller, former chairwoman of the symphony board and past executive director of the Alberta Bair Theater, “Uri makes music a universal language. Through him it speaks to all cultures and ties together people from all times... His commitment to excellence and understanding is unparalleled.”

Custer County Art and Heritage Center **Visual Arts**



From the inside, Smooth concrete walls and well-lit rectangular galleries give Custer County Art and Heritage Center the look of a contemporary urban exhibition space.

But Miles City, a pastoral hub of sparsely settled eastern Montana, is anything but urban. And the art center, which inhabits 90-year-old water storage tanks near the banks of the Yellowstone River, is anything

but contemporary. Twenty-five years ago, its concrete walls were crusted with sediment and the floor was caked with two feet of mud.

"It took a giant leap of imagination" to envision an art gallery in the community's unused water treatment plant, says Kathy Doeden, an art center trustee and former member of the Montana Arts Council. But that's exactly the leap that several community members made.

In addition to lots of uninterrupted, linear space, the stoutly built tanks afforded two other ingredients valuable to an art gallery – security and insulation from the prairie's often-fierce climate extremes.

The nonprofit Custer County Art and Heritage Center was chartered in 1975, raised \$30,000, and with a tremendous volunteer effort, transformed the concrete tanks into a 7,000 square-foot art center.

This innovative space earned a Governor's Historic Preservation Award for the best adaptive re-use of a historic structure and has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. It was one of two Montana sites included in *America Restored*, an elegant coffee-table book published in 1994. In addition, the center has repeatedly received operational grants and recognition from the Institute of Museum Services and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Since its inception, the center's annual budget has grown from \$30,000 to more than \$200,000 and its educational programs have expanded to almost 30 rural schools.

The center has always maintained a diverse exhibition roster, ranging from contemporary to western art. It is also building on the "heritage" part of its mission by developing a sizeable collection of vintage photos that reflect the area's colorful history.

Expansion plans are also developing. A few years ago, the center spent \$150,000 on a new ramped entryway and leak-proof roof. Recently, it received a \$50,000 gift to launch renovations on the pump house, which will eventually include office space and artist studios.

And many more water storage vats are buried – like treasures – under the surface, just waiting for a valiant group of volunteers to unearth them.

Judy Ericksen Service to the Arts

Clay – a most humble ingredient – can be transformed into something substantial, elegant, and comforting in the hands of an accomplished potter.

For more than three decades, Great Falls ceramist Judy Ericksen has deftly built both elegant pots and spirited support for the arts throughout Montana. “All I do is provide a vehicle,” she says. “I just try to be a vessel for possibility.”

Ericksen and her husband, Joe, moved to Montana in 1965 from Minneapolis. Her new home immediately captured her heart and imagination – an inspiration she has learned to express through her pottery.

She is a current corporate member of the longest standing of Gallery 16, one of the state’s first artist-owned cooperative galleries. In addition, she served as business manager for the Cascade Quartet – the professional string quartet for the Great Falls Symphony – from 1989-1994; has been a member of the Great Falls Arts Association; served on the founding task force and board at Paris Gibson Square; and has been an arts resource for the public schools. She teaches ceramics at the University of Great Falls and has offered classes and workshops at Paris Gibson Square and the C.M. Russell Museum.

Several years ago, in response to her concerns about hunger and poverty, she launched an “Empty Bowls” event at the YWCA. During its first eight years, Ericksen single-handedly made up to 250 bowls each year – “as much as I could physically do.” The annual benefit continues, with many artists now filling the orders for soup bowls.

Ericksen is also involved in a literacy effort at the new Cascade County Regional Jail. The project is part of a volunteer ministry aimed at putting books in the hands of prisoners.

With all of her local commitments, Ericksen still finds time to fulfill broader responsibilities. She was a director at large for the Montana Institute of the Arts and president and board member for its Foundation. Ericksen also spent three terms on the Cultural and Aesthetic Projects Legislative Review Committee, including a turn as its chairman.

The Governor’s Arts Award “is so humbling,” Ericksen says. “The roster of recipients looks like a list of my mentors, teachers and role models.

But it’s the icing on the cake – the cake has been the opportunity to be a part of it all.”



"I can get interested in almost anything: welded sculpture, hand-made felt, old photographs, wall paper, stuff pasted to an abandoned farmhouse, and realistic portraits of my neighbors," Bill Stockton once said. "But my main interest has been and always will be the harsh, abstract, semi-wilderness qualities of central Montana. Why? Because I was born and raised here, I guess."

Stockton, whose achievements as an artist earned him the Governor's Arts Award, died of lung cancer Oct. 29, at the age of 81. His French-born wife Elvia was by his side.

A self-described "lone wolf," Stockton was a maverick painter and sculptor, whose sensibilities had more in common with abstract expressionists like Jackson Pollack and Willem de Kooning than Charlie Russell.

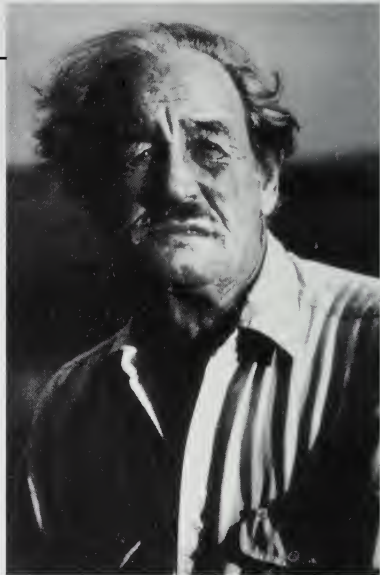
He grew up in Winnett and Grass Range, joined the Army during World War II and met his wife while stationed in France. With the GI bill, he attended the Minneapolis School of Art for a year, and then spent another year at the Ecole de la Grande Chaumiere in Paris.

The Stocktons moved to the family ranch in Grass Range in 1950, where he painted signs, raised sheep and created paintings and sculptures. He earned some national recognition, but was disillusioned with the gallery scene, and decided to focus on more regional exhibition opportunities.

Over the years, private and public collectors "from here to Paris" have acquired his paintings and sculpture. Banks, churches, schools, and libraries throughout the state have commissioned his work and he's had solo exhibitions in Billings, Helena, Great Falls and Lewistown.

Donna Forbes, former executive director of the Yellowstone Art Museum, was an admirer and persistent champion of his work. "He brought the great questions of modernism to Montana," she says. In 1993, the museum, under her direction, purchased 73 retrospective works through the patronage of Miriam Sample.

To temper his isolation, Stockton became close friends with Bob and Gennie DeWeese and Isabelle Johnson - fellow abstract artists in an era dominated by romantic and realistic images of Montana's landscape. Although he credits European masters as mentors, he was also influenced by these Montana contemporaries. "From Isabelle I learned that what was around me was all important. From Bob I learned that the imperfections of honesty contained the real truths," Stockton said.



Previous Governor's Awards for

Lifetime Achievement in the Arts

LITERATURE

A.B. Guthrie, Jr.

MUSIC

John Lester

FOLK & TRADITIONAL ARTS

Oshanee Kenmille

SERVICE TO THE ARTS

Jo-Anne Mussulman

Dr. Joseph Mussulman

David Nelson

Miriam & Joseph S. Sample

Shirley & Benjamin Steele

Susan & John Talbot

VISUAL ARTS

James Kenneth Ralston

Robert Scriver

Frances Senska & Jessie Wilber

Robert F. Morgan



Previous Governor's Arts Awards

Recipients

DANCE

Michael Smuin

CARTOONING

Stan Lynde

FOLK & TRADITIONAL ARTS

Wally McRae

Bernie Rasmussen

Kevin Shannon

Harold & Virginia Sprague

Agnes Vanderburg

Thomas Yellowtail

LITERATURE

Stephen Ambrose

James Lee Burke

Ivan Doig

Dorothy Johnson

William Kittredge

Norman Maclean

Thomas McGuane

James Welch

MEDIA ARTS

Myrna Loy

MUSIC

Philip Aaberg

Eugene Andrie

Judith Blegen

Donald Carey

Eric Funk

Mary E. Moore

Christopher Parkening

Mary Agnes Roberts

Edmund Sedivy

PRESENTATION OF THE ARTS

Arnie Malina

Ralph & Myrna Paulus

SERVICE TO THE ARTS

Francis Bardanouve

Archie Bray Foundation

Robert & LaDonna Fehlberg

James Haughey

Elmer Jakab

Terry Melton

Montana Institute of the Arts

U S WEST Foundation

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Montana Power Company

THEATER

Bigfork Summer Playhouse

Fort Peck Summer Theater &

Fort Peck Fine Arts Council

Missoula Children's Theatre

Montana Repertory Theatre

Shakespeare in the Parks

VISUAL ARTS

Rudy Autio

Joanna Barker

Dana Boussard

Ray Campeau

Russell Chatham

Gennie & Robert DeWeese

Edith Freeman

Walter Hook

Isabelle Johnson

Lyndon Fayne Pomeroy

James Poor

Gary Schildt

David Shaner

Peter Voulkos

Yellowstone Art Museum

Montana Arts Council Members

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Mary Crippen, *Billings*

John Dudis, *Kalispell*

Rick Halmes, *Billings*

Delores (Dee) Heltne, *Havre*

Sody Jones, *Billings*

Diane M. Klein, *Kalispell*

Neal Lewing, *Polson*

Kari Lee Knierim, *Glasgow*

Marilyn Olson, *Sidney*

Jackie Parsons, *Browning*

Linda E. Reed, *Helena*

Jennifer Seifert, *Troy*

Mark Tyers, *Bozeman*

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Parriera Graphic Design*

Montana Ambassadors

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Statewide Chair

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Kim Champney, *Billings*

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